

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention is a method for gathering detailed information about products (and services) purchased on the Internet by examining electronic mail acknowledgements. When consumers purchase products over the Internet, the seller sends an acknowledgement back to the consumer listing the products purchased. Then registration entity's server makes a copy of the acknowledgment, parses it, and stores it in a database at the server. The consumer then connects to the server and downloads new purchases into a database on his PC. Client software running on the PC enables the consumer to search and analyze the list of products purchased, to check off the products received, and to load purchases into financial management software, such as Intuit's Quicken and Microsoft Money. If the seller sends an email acknowledgement of the shipment, the registration entity will get a copy of it and then inform the consumer and record the shipment in transit in the client database. If the seller does not send an email acknowledgement, but instead makes shipment information available on the seller's web site, and then the server software will probe the web site periodically, and then continue as if an email acknowledgement were sent to the consumer.